



*Forget all your troubles, forget all your cares...*

An older couple walks by hand in hand. A toddler laughs and rolls across the grassy slope. Teenagers shuffle by in a laughing group. Three generations of family point and gaze across the river. Two 20-somethings play the bongos for a small group of spectators. Young couples, dressed for the symphony, stroll by. Tourists pose for pictures. Children walk gingerly—learning that, yes, bridges have some movement.

It is Friday night at Greenville's newest attraction, Falls Park on the Reedy. No, it's not Central Park or the Golden Gate Bridge. It's a footbridge in the 20-acre park in downtown Greenville, and I love it. It makes me proud. It's a lovely spot in an already cool downtown. Somehow the powers that be have managed to create a downtown that's filled with walking, chatting, dining, sitting people.

Step across the street from the park to Spill the Beans for some of the most decadent ice cream around. Sure you can have fresh-ground coffee there, but the line most nights is for the ice cream swirled with such incredible ingredients as

cheesecake, brownies, macadamia nuts, chocolate chips or dozens of other combinations. Up the block is the Peace Center where audiences can catch shows ranging from top quality Broadway productions to chamber music. Patrons of some of our local favorite restaurants such as Soby's (try the crabcakes) and Restaurant O spill outdoors for dining most evenings. And the renovated Westin Poinsett is a wonderfully cozy accommodation for guests. However, whether you walk uptown or down, from the northern Hyatt Regency down Main Street to the area known as West End, Greenville is a fun place to just hang out.

The new Falls Park on the Reedy is just the best reason yet to head downtown. Like a family who just discovered great grandma's tarnished silver in the attic, Greenville has polished up and put out for show our own treasure – the Reedy River Falls.

For over 30 years a tribute to the automobile age—a big ugly concrete bridge—hid the falls. In 2002, the Greenville City Council voted, counter to most city trends, by choosing to demolish the bridge. Civic groups banded together with hun-

-dreds of Greenville residents to create the Falls Park masterpiece.

The obvious eye-catching centerpiece of the park is the Liberty Bridge. This \$4.5 million dollar, 355 foot-long pedestrian bridge provides an incredible view of the Reedy River and its largest falls. This engineering and artistic marvel was the vision of architect Miguel Rosales. A designer of international renown, Rosales' designs have spanned such waters as the Mississippi River and the Panama Canal, and are a part of the ambitious Central Artery/Tunnel project in Boston. While the Reedy River may not match the fame of these waters, Rosales' reputation for bridge aesthetics and design is immediately apparent. The long curve, cantilevered design and delicate lines create the illusion that the bridge is floating. At night, indirect lights illuminate the bridge and the falls for a very romantic setting. By day, the falls and park are an out-in-nature respite just steps from downtown office buildings.

The Reedy River falls, which is today enjoyed for its aesthetic

beauty, was once prized for its power generation. This is Greenville's industrial cradle. Here the first textile mill was established in 1873 and some of the mill's old brickwork still stands near the eastern edge of the falls.

Today Falls Park on the Reedy comprises 20 acres of parklands, crossed by trails and blooming with hundreds of native South Carolina plants. A different kind of weaving goes on here now. The falls and its surrounding park pull together all the parts of an increasingly diverse population. Young, old, toddling, strolling, hurried, idle, lovers, friends. Falls Park on the Reedy draws us together. It already feels like home. And in that tradition of Southern hospitality, you're invited to drop by for a visit.

*Find out more...*

Falls Park on the Reedy River  
[www.fallspark.com](http://www.fallspark.com)

